

ness of walls of spout, 0.75 in.; thickness of walls of nest, 0.50 in.; thickness of bottom of nest, 0.75 in.; attachment area, rear, 15.75 sq. in.; attachment area, top, 20.25 sq. in.

The walls of the nest widened towards the top and rear from 0.5 in. to 0.75-1.00 in., hence the relatively large attachment area. The "spout" was roofed even where it had been attached to the top of the culvert, the roof of the spout contributing four square inches to the attachment area. The total weight of the nest was 2.75 lb. There was a depression in the bottom of the nesting chamber which had evidently been lined—some lining material was embedded in the mud.

OTHER RECORDS

Fairy Martins have also been recorded from the following localities not mentioned in the foregoing notes:—

Moore River (near Mogumber), F. L. Whitlock, *Emu*, 4, p. 132.

Gingin, D. L. Serventy, *Emu*, 28, p. 65.

Irwin Valley, D. L. Serventy, *Emu*, 28, p. 195.

Belmont, D. L. Serventy, *Emu*, 47, p. 276.

Bunketch, D. Reid, *W.A. Nat.*, 3, p. 70.

Frankland River, H. M. Whittell, *W.A. Nat.*, 3, p. 75.

Morawa, S. R. White, *W.A. Nat.*, 3, p. 104.

York, V. N. Serventy, *W.A. Nat.*, 3, p. 122.

Weam, R. Carrick, unpublished.

Chester Pass, Stirling Ra., L. E. Sedgwick, unpublished.

Barnong Station (Gullewa), D. L. Serventy, unpublished.

SUMMARY

The writer's experiences with *Hylochelidon ariel* in the south-western portion of Western Australia confirm the generally accepted distribution and status of the species.

Two of the larger nesting colonies—at Dangin and at Bilbarin—are described in some detail, and one nest analysed.

Limited evidence suggests that these S.W. birds take up breeding stations in late August or early September and almost immediately commence nesting, the season continuing until mid-December.

No information on activity during the non-breeding season has been obtained, suggesting that the populations encountered were migratory or at least nomadic.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Hooded Dotterel near Fremantle.—Since the Swan coastal plain is in the northern part of the distribution range of the Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*) this species is rarely seen in the vicinity of Fremantle (D. L. Serventy, *Emu*, 47: 265). On February 3, 1957, along the beach between Woodman Point and Coogee Beach, five miles south of Fremantle, P. S. Stone and I saw eleven Hooded Dotterels of which eight were fully plumaged.

Along the same stretch of coastline I have frequently observed up to eight Pied Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*), a species that has disappeared from most beaches in the Swan River

district, but occurring in sparse numbers on the islands off the coast.

—JULIAN R. FORD, Fremantle.

A Cling-fish New for Western Australia.—Whitley (A list of the Fishes of Western Australia, *Fisheries Dept. Bull.* 2, 1948: 28) records three species of cling-fish (Family Gobiesocidae). A fourth species, *Parvicrepis parvipinnis* (Waite) 1906, is now to be added. A specimen was collected, clinging to Sargassum weed, at Point Peron on April 14, 1957, by Misses J. Arnold and K. Vollprecht.

The specimen measures 16 mm. total length and has the fin-ray formula, D.5; A.4; P.16; C.10. Coloration of the live fish was as follows: body colour a light olive-brown; numerous small ocelli over all the body except the abdomen, on the throat aggregated to form several light brown transverse lines; larger brown spots present along the dorsal mid-line; through the eye a horizontal, reddish-brown line. The fins unmarked except for rust-coloured margin on the caudal fin. Preservation in 5% formalin resulted in loss of live pigmentation, the colour fading to dull yellowish-brown.

In his description of the species (*Rec. Aust. Mus.*, 6 (3), 1906: 202), Waite placed it in the genus *Diplocrepis*. Under this generic name he recorded and figured the fish in the *Handbook of South Australian Fishes* (1923). Whitley (*Aust. Zool.*, 6, 1931: 325) considered the species not cogenetic with typical *Diplocrepis* (New Zealand) and erected for it a new genus, *Parvipinnis*.

Previously the species was known only from south-eastern Australia.

—N. E. MILWARD, Perth.

Occurrence of the Fork-tailed Swift in the South-West, 1956.
—At Rottnest Island on January 29, 1956, P. S. Stone, W. C. Ford and I saw a loose flock of about 100 Fork-tailed Swifts (*Apus pacificus*) at 7.30 a.m. near West End, slowly moving towards the south-east at heights ranging from a few feet to about 100 feet above the ground. As this flock moved towards Kwinana, it was joined by another large flock moving in from the sea near Carnac Island. Several smaller flocks of Fork-tailed Swifts were observed in passage between 7.30 and 8.15 a.m. at West End, and towards midday, individuals were seen flying over the western part of Rottnest Island while they hawked insects. The original flock was also feeding. During this period, the weather was fine and extremely hot with fairly strong easterly winds in the morning. A northern low pressure system dominated the weather over most of the State.

Fork-tailed Swifts were later observed on several occasions at Hamilton Hill, three miles south-east of Fremantle. W. C. Ford and I observed a large compact flock of about 400, at 7.30 a.m. on February 2, working their way against a gentle south-easterly wind. A few minutes later, a second flock of about 2,000 swifts was seen circling at about 1,000 feet above the ground, their general movement also being towards the south-east. On the morning of February 5, W. C. Ford heard a flock calling but